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BOOK REVIEWS.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF TORTS. By JOHN C. TOWNES, LL. D. Austin, Texas: Austin Printing Company. 1907. Pp. xi, 337.

As the title indicates, this book deals with the general principles underlying the law of torts and does not take up at all what the author calls the "named torts" except in an appendix, added to give completeness to the work. In this appendix there is a brief treatment of negligence, nuisance, fraud, assault and battery, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, injuries resulting in death, defamation, torts violative of rights in real property, torts violative of rights in personal property, and interference with property rights under judicial process.

Professor Townes is writing primarily for law students, although there is a generous citation of cases for the assistance of the active practitioner. As a law school text book it is well conceived and gives a clear and complete statement of those principles which are at the basis of all tort law. Perhaps a self-taught student with this book in his hands might be misled by a lack of balance noticeable from the practical point of view. When he began to practice he would hardly be prepared for the great importance which assumption of risk and contributory negligence would take on. This lack of balance, of course, would be corrected by the lecturer when the book was in use by law school classes, and for such use its broad and clear treatment of the subject would be very valuable.

S. B. S.

A TREATISE ON EQUITY JURISPRUDENCE AS ADMINISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. By JOHN NORTON POMEROY. STUDENTS' EDITION. By JOHN NORTON POMEROY, JR. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company. 1907. Pp. xvi, 1048.

The compression of the essential parts of his father's work of four large volumes into a single book of serviceable size is the task assumed by John Norton Pomeroy, Jr. That the revision has been carefully made is not alone a sufficient justification

fication for its existence. So admirable is the original work, so broad and scholarly is its treatment of the fundamental principles of equity jurisprudence and so clear and comprehensive its discussion of their application that its study ought to form a part of the training of every student and of every practitioner. Furthermore, the day is fast passing—if, in fact, it has not already passed—when there is any need for a “student’s text book,” as the usefulness of such volumes has largely ceased with the almost universal adoption of the more effective and more scientific case system. It seems, therefore, a difficult task to justify the present volume, for every student ought to be encouraged to consult the original work of the senior Pomeroy if he needs a broader viewpoint than that furnished by his cases, and every practitioner, of course, will desire to avail himself of all the learning at his service in that classic work.

Disregarding, however, these considerations, we can safely say that the “Students’ Edition” represents a careful and discriminating effort to compress within a single volume an adequate treatment of the broad doctrine of equity. Fortunately, the present editor has adopted the wise plan of accomplishing this result, not by altering the language used by his father, nor by eliminating individual paragraphs, but rather by cutting out the discussion of particular branches of the law deemed by the editor of lesser importance, and by sweeping away nine-tenths of the original notes. The value of the plan is apparent to anyone familiar with the keen logic and wonderful clearness of expression found in every page of the father’s fruitful work. To put before the student within a single volume these thoughts and these discussions of the fundamental principles involved with a few references to leading cases has been the aim of the present editor. His success has been marked. Instead of the confusing discussions, garbled sentences and crude expressions so frequently found in abridgments of this nature, we have a volume which gives to the reader the privilege of studying the subject of equity jurisprudence in the words of a master, coupled with sufficient notes to bring the work down to date and to refer the student to the original books for the leading cases.

R. D. J.